

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Rocket Gas & Car Wash, Inc. a/k/a Shop N Go Mr. Mansoor Ali Viranai 501 Texas Avenue La Marque, Texas 75568

Re: File No. AED/MSEB - 4727

NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Dear Mr. Viranai:

On August 15, 1996, authorized representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") inspected the Shop N Go retail gasoline station, located at 102 Highway 3, La Marque, Texas. The inspection was conducted to determine compliance with section 211(k) of the Clean Air Act ("Act"), 42 C.F.R. § 7545(k), and the regulations issued thereunder (40 C.F.R. part 80, subpart D). Where inappropriate fuels are used in internal combustion engines, the emissions of harmful gases can increase significantly. Notwithstanding improvements in vehicle emission controls, emissions from motor vehicles continue to make up a very large portion of all air pollution. Congress has established a program of improvement and regulation of fuels to protect our air quality from unnecessary pollution associated with the misfueling of vehicles.

The applicable regulations provide that no person may manufacture and sell or distribute, offer for sale or distribution, dispense, supply, offer for supply, store, transport, or cause the transportation of any gasoline represented as reformulated and intended for sale or use in any covered area unless such gasoline meets the applicable standards specified in 40 C.F.R. § 80.41. This law also subjects violators to a maximum civil penalty of \$25,000 per day for each violation in addition to recovery of the amount of the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violation.

As a result of the inspection, EPA has determined that gasoline, represented to be reformulated and intended for sale or use at the Shop N Go retail station, which is located in a

reformulated gasoline covered area, was manufactured and sold or distributed, offered for sale or distribution, dispensed, supplied, offered for supply, stored, transported, or caused to be transported in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 80.78(a)(1) in that it failed to meet the applicable Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) standard specified in 40 C.F.R. § 80.41. The gasoline had a RVP of 8.27 psi which exceeds the applicable standard of 7.4 psi. As the retailer of the gasoline at the facility where the violation was found, Rocket Gas & Car Wash, Inc., a/k/a Shop N Go is liable for the violation of 40 C.F.R. § 80.78(a)(1) pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 80.79(a)(1).

Sections 211 and 205 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7545 and 7524, authorize the Administrator of EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for every day of each such violation and the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violations. Rather than initiating litigation, we propose a civil penalty for the violations alleged in this Notice of Violation of \$1,927.

EPA encourages settlement of such matters. The settlement process provides substantial flexibility for reducing the proposed penalty, particularly if the alleged violations are corrected promptly. If we cannot settle this matter promptly, we reserve the right to file an administrative complaint or refer this matter to the United States Department of Justice with a recommendation to file a civil complaint in federal district court.

The EPA attorney designated below has been assigned to this case. All information should be sent to the case attorney. Please contact this attorney regarding the Notice of Violation.

Judith Lubow, Attorney/Advisor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mobile Source Enforcement Branch
Air Enforcement Division
12345 W. Alameda Parkway
Suite 214
Denver, CO. 80228
Phone Number: (303) 969-6476

Please let me once again emphasize that while we take our obligation to enforce these requirements seriously, we will make every effort to reach an equitable settlement in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bure C. Buchart

Bruce C. Buckheit, Director Air Enforcement Division Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance